

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled duplicate claims 21-25, and he has addressed "without narrowing" the §112 issues in claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11.

All of Applicant's currently amended independent claims claim a never before seen combination of a forward release ski binding system and a human activated release mechanism.

The Camp and Wunder references are human activated release mechanisms. Sittman and Spitaler are forward release ski binding systems that automatically release upon a large forward force.

Applicant has invented and claimed the first automatic forward release binding system that has an independent human activated gas binding release mechanism.

There does not exist in the prior art a suggestion to adapt the present day forward release binding systems into an emergency human activated binding release system which does allow a skier to manually release from a slow backward fall.

Slow backward falls are the main cause of all ACL knee injuries, which the inventor suffered. It is estimated that over 50,000 ACL injuries occur to skiers every year.

This newly claimed combination is new, useful and non-obvious.

Applicant respectfully requests passage to allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully Submitted,



Date: 8-26-03

Rick Martin
Reg. No. 32,267
Patent Law Offices of Rick Martin, P.C.
416 Coffman Street
Longmont, CO 80501
(303) 651-2177